

OCT 17 1962

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Pers 2 J. B. DONOVAN

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for James R. GREGORY

OCT 17 1962

A Mere 5 Trillion, 600 Billion Would Ransom All Red-Held Folk

To the Editor of The Star:

I have read in your paper where Mr. James Donovan is about to conclude the release of some 1,100 Cuban prisoners from the Bay of Pigs invasion for \$62,000,000.

What interested me most was that it was suggested that it might be paid in the main from CIA money, that happened to be available, and actually delivered in surplus agricultural products and drugs. If my figures are reasonably correct, it follows that the price is about \$56,000 per man.

This raises interesting possibilities. Not long ago I was in Jamaica, a land where I have spent a portion of my time each year since 1954. There I was reliably informed by U.S. State Department aids in the bar at the Kingston-Sheraton that Castro now holds as political prisoners—at the Inn of Pines, in Camaguey, and at the 1,500-mile range ofensive rocket sites at Pinar del Rio—some 17,000 additional prisoners. They are all in jail for the same offense as the prisoners from the Bay of Pigs—active opposition to communism in Cuba.

It seems to me we have here a solution to the whole probably solved in minutes by the energetic Mr. Donovan. A quick computation indicates that for less than one billion dollars, at the going price, we could get all the communists out of Cuba. In addition, we could substantially reduce our surplus grain stocks.

This thing really could go a long way toward solving the Berlin problem. Take Berlin, for example. If all the people who wanted out were bought out, they could take down the wall. I have numerous friends in Indianapolis who have been trying for 17 years to get relatives out of Latvia and Estonia. In all, I have been told there are only about 100,000 people of Lithuanian, Polish,

lands already mentioned. It is obvious that for only five trillion, 600 billion dollars we can solve the whole problem.

If they would again be so gracious as to accept payment in kind—say, Cadillacs and Lincoln Continentals—this would amount to four or five automobiles for every man, woman and child in Russia.

Then as Neville Chamberlain used to say so succinctly, we could be sure to have "peace in our time."

JAMES R. GREGORY
President United States
Publishing Company.

Peter Joseph Drew
X-Ag 2 DO

Warning Was on Wall

By Peter Edison

Other elements of post-war, communist Polish affairs have been something like the recent Poznan popular uprising in the making for some months.

A clear picture of what has been going on behind the Polish curtain was obtained by the simple intelligence technique of having someone read all the Polish newspapers and putting together bits and pieces of information.

Thus "News From Behind the Iron Curtain,"—monthly publication of Free Europe Committee, of which ex-Ambassador Joseph C. Grew is chairman—gave a detailed report on "Poland in Ferment" last March.

The month before it gave an appraisal of "The Polish Grain Balance." It showed that production within the present boundaries of Poland had dropped from 13,000,000 long tons in 1938 to 12,000,000 in 1949 and 10,800,000 in 1953.

The 1950-53 six-year plan called for production of 14,500,000 tons. But even with perfect weather and a bumper crop in 1950, production was only 12,000,000 tons. Here was an obviously worsening situation that today makes the Poznan workers' demonstrations for more bread understandable.

These two forecasts attracted little attention when first made. They were considered wishful thinking. But the warning was on the wall for any who could read.

MOST interesting aspect of the March "Poland in Ferment" analysis was its origin. The first signs,

of unrest were detected, especially among writers, artists and philosophers, who were persecuted by Communist Party edicts in 1951.

Up to then, the post war years had been marked by a tremendous rebuilding effort. Poland's new western territories—taken from Germany—had to be resettled. This contributed to national fervor and pride. Then the low living standard, oppression and hardships began to be felt.

But discussion and controversy went much farther than the Polish communists intended. The debate which started in intellectual circles in 1954 took a dangerous turn in 1955.

Complaints about mismanagement of justice appeared in the Polish press throughout the year. There was criticism of unjust fines and penalties inflicted on the "kulaks"—the private farmers. Large-scale arrests were said to serve no useful purpose and to endanger agricultural production.

The Polish Ministry of Justice was accused of being too concerned with political matters and of ignoring common crimes, even tho it handed out prison sentences too easily.

LAST fall the Polish Communist Party attempted to redefine its ideological position and establish a new line. There was a larger measure of hope.

But having once sampled the liberties of free speech and free criticism, the tactic brought the mouths of the people. Setting the opportunity off by the Poznan trade fair, with visitors of Western Europeans in the city, the popular assembly exploded by spontaneous demonstration. The demonstrators had nothing to do with the agitators.

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X per 2 W. O. DOUGLAS
X per 2 J. C. GREW
1 per 2 W. H. JUDD

Letters to the Editor

Call for Help

As an expression of the American people's concern for Tibetans able to flee the Red terror, we have organized a nonpartisan Emergency Committee for Tibetan Refugees and have offered Indian authorities the fullest cooperation.

Our mission in India has cabled this report on the dimensions of the Tibetan tragedy:

"Ten thousand newly arrived Tibetan refugee, including many wounded from recent fighting, joined 8000 who have escaped since November. Sickness widespread. Local resources totally inadequate to provide relief."

"Medical aid desperately needed, particularly first drugs, vitamins, antibiotics and all kinds of relief supplies. Also food and clothing. We beg you do everything in your power to mobilize American aid on behalf of Tibetan friends."

Americans who responded so generously during the Hungarian refugee crisis can do no less in the Tibetan tragedy. Please send your most generous contribution (tax deductible) to J. Peter Grace, treasurer, American Emergency Committee for Tibetan Refugees, 17 Park Ave., New York, N. Y., so that we may begin relief program immediately. We count on your generous response.

LOWELL THOMAS,
WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS,
JOSEPH C. GREW,
WALTER H. JUDD,
New York

W.D.C.
x per 1 J. THOMAS
x per 2 G. C. GREW
1 per 2 M. O. DOUGLAS
1 per 2 W. N. DUOD

The Washington Post

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Tibetans in Need

A group of prominent citizens headed by Lowell Thomas, former Ambassador Grew, Justice Douglas and Congressman Judd has offered a way in which Americans may demonstrate their compassion for the victims of Communist oppression in Tibet. The plight of the 18,000 refugees now in India, described in a letter elsewhere on this page, has a painfully familiar ring. These are the people who defended the autonomy of their country in much the same way as the Hungarian freedom fighters stood up to Soviet brutality. Although the two situations are not altogether comparable, it is important that the free world show the same concern for an Asian people that it voiced for the Hungarians. Drugs, food and most of all fraternal support is needed for these refugees who have fled their homeland instead of bowing to the dictates of Peking. The response ought to be generous.